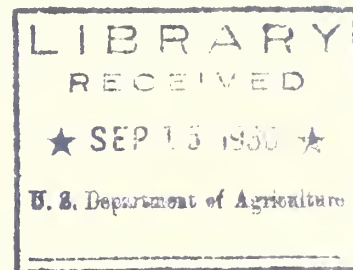


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STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by
Office of Barberry Eradication

Volume I

September 10, 1930

Number 9

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Bureau of Plant Industry
U. S. Department of Agriculture

INDEX

The Northwest Crop Improvement Association - - - - -	87
Epidemiology - - - - -	89
Eastern Region + - - - -	89
Western Region - - - - -	92
Michigan (Eastern Region) - - - - -	95
Personnel Items - - - - -	96

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THE NORTHWEST CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Barberry eradication workers realize that, with the exception of the farmers themselves, no group is more vitally interested in good grain than the milling and grain trade. As constructive evidence of their concern, they organized the Northwest Crop Improvement Association two years ago. This organization represents and coordinates the educational attempts or desires of the millers and grainmen to:

1. Improve quality of all grain
2. Reduce cost of production per acre
3. Reduce the amount of foreign material and disease.

The Association operates in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Its policy of work is to advise, assist and cooperate in any practical program designed to improve the quality of grain. It does not believe in inaugurating new programs of work, but rather finds plenty to do by lending assistance to the crop programs outlined by State College and Federal authorities. In the last Annual Report of the Association over twenty projects in which they have taken part during the year are briefly discussed. The Association maintains an office at 408 Flour Exchange Building, Minneapolis.

Barberry workers may be interested in one project which the Association has fostered and expects to enlarge upon next year.

There are more than 4,000 local elevator managers who are members of the Association in the four States. The Northwest Crop Improvement Association is trying to contact with and encourage these men in crop improvement work. The country elevator managers exert a tremendous influence with the farmers and a great many of them are interested in improving the quality of crops if someone would direct them.

Accordingly the Association is trying to coordinate the activities of this group. Contacts are made with them by personal visits (necessarily limited), State meetings, county meetings and a monthly bulletin - The Crop Improvement News.

The county meeting, or Crop Improvement School, is the best medium for this work. Every manager, cooperative, line and independent, is invited to attend a day's crop school. There they receive laboratory instruction on grain grading methods, crop varieties, disease control, etc. It is their school and they usually indicate the nature of the program which is, of course, presented by the State and Federal officials. County elevator meetings were held in about fifteen or twenty counties last year. Plans are being developed to increase the number next year.

The Crop Improvement News is also used to reach the grain man and miller. This publication is a bulletin published irregularly by an irregular editor. It carries items of interest about Crop Improvement work and also some subject matter material.

In the last issue, the work of Barberry Eradication was discussed and a colored reproduction of the common barberry leaf was mailed to all members.

We are glad to have this opportunity of giving a brief picture of the objectives and work of the Northwest Crop Improvement Association. We believe in barberry eradication, for like elimination of mixed wheat and stinking smut, destruction of the barberry will improve the quality and lower the cost of small grain production. We will be very glad to assist any of the barberry men in our territory in working with the elevator men.

The very nature of our respective tasks makes our mutual relationship a cordial and cooperative one.

H. R. Sumner,
Executive Secretary.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(Reported by Miss Laura Hamilton)

The work of examining slides is nearing completion, according to Mr. Walter. When all slides have been examined, the data will be tabulated and copies of the results furnished to the various Leaders in charge of field offices and field men through whose efforts the work was made possible.

Physiologic-form identifications of wheat stem rust have been completed for Mexico and Texas, states Mr. Hines, Form 38 being most prevalent in both cases. Form 49 was second in prevalence, although its occurrence in Mexico was largely confined to the Monclova area where rust was comparatively heavy. Form 36 also has been found in a few collections from Texas and in a few from Kansas and elsewhere. Little can be said about these results, however, until further data is available.

Response to requests for collections of telia on wheat, oats, timothy, Poa and Agrostis has been generous, states Dr. Cotter, but additional collections, wherever possible, are needed and will be appreciated.

On August 16 Mr. Butler left St. Paul for San Antonio. At Brookings he conferred with Mr. Bulger and en route through the southern States expected to make observations to determine the extent of oversummering of stem rust. On September 1 Mr. Butler was transferred to a W. A. E. basis, and during the winter will continue the overwintering studies on which he has been engaged for a number of years.

During the first week of September Dr. Stakman expects to return to St. Paul to remain about a month.

EASTERN REGION

Ohio - 8 East Broad Street, Columbus - Harry Atwood

During the month of August survey activities were carried forward in Mercer and Miami counties. Barberries were found on 24 rural and city properties in Mercer County. Four of these properties had escaped barberry bushes. Approximately 22 per cent of the area of Miami County was completed in addition to the completion of the survey in Mercer County.

The barberry exhibit at the Ohio State Fair, which was held the last week in August, created an unusual amount of interest. The Life Cycle Models, featuring the different stages of black stem rust, were shown. We also had on display charts and living plants of both common and Japanese barberry. Our exhibit was placed with those of the Extension Department of Ohio State University and the Wooster Experiment Station. An attendant was in charge of the exhibit throughout each day of the Fair. He was kept busy most of the time explaining the Life Cycle Models to interested people. Several leads concerning the location of common barberry bushes were received during the week.

Four of our field men have resigned to return to teaching positions in the public schools. Earl E. Garwick has returned to Columbus as Principal of one of the schools. L. L. Shackson has gone to Wellsville where he will have charge of all music instruction in the schools. Paul Elliott has returned to Canton to resume his duties as science teacher in Central High School, and Perry E. Snider has returned to Granville as manual training instructor.

Indiana - Agricultural Experiment Station, La Fayette - Wayne E. Leer

We're at the big State Fair. The barberry demonstration at the State Fair attracts much attention. Last year they were "Condemned to Die", but this year "They Have Escaped. Reward Offered." Curiosity keeps a continuous line of people passing through the demonstration.

Most of the field men will be resigning this week. Probably six men will be available for late work. This is the largest crew working late which we have had for several years. The dry weather has reduced weed growth making it an ideal fall for foot survey.

Stanley Castell discussed barberry eradication at the teachers' institute in LaGrange County during the last week of August and distributed bulletin boxes filled with educational material. The distribution of educational material will be made in the northern counties during the fall and early winter.

The survey of Decatur County was discontinued August 30, in order to concentrate the work in Bartholomew County. It is hoped that it will be possible to complete Bartholomew County this year. Slightly less than one-half of Decatur County was completed during 1930.

Illinois - Box 72, Post Office Building, Urbana - Robert W. Bills

The Illinois State Fair came to a close August 23. A very successful barberry exhibit was conducted at the Fair. New activities this year consisted of the camp fire barberry meeting at the Eagle Boy Scout Camp, and the barberry meeting held at the Boys' State Fair school. A group of 243 boys from the farms of Illinois were present for this training. Several good ideas were secured at the Fair this year which may be carried out in any future State Fair exhibit.

The Central States Exposition came to a close September 5. The attendance one day was 40,000. The barberry exhibit has been of value and without question many people became acquainted with common barberry for the first time. This exhibit was in a State tent. Such an arrangement is not wholly satisfactory.

On August 29 and 30 barberry study material was presented to the following rural-teachers institutes: Will, Lake, McHenry, Boone and Stephenson Counties. Field agents Matheny, Woods, Wright and Davis made talks concerning the common barberry at these meetings and also explained the use of the study material in the rural schools. The value of introducing study material concerning barberry eradication to the rural schools can not be placed too high.

On August 30 a barberry exhibit was placed at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Picnic. Work is being carried on in this county at present and the exhibit gave a wonderful opportunity to show the common barberry to the farmers.

On August 28 a common barberry exhibit was placed on The Model Farm picnic grounds at Mendelcin. The Farm Bureau had a picnic on this date at which over 6,000 farmers were in attendance. Thousands of people have seen the permanent barberry exhibit set up on this farm during the present summer.

A squad of five men began the second survey in Blackberry Township, of Kane County, September 2. These men were transferred from Stephenson County. Common barberries are to be found in this county and without question these men will find many bushes before their season's work is over this fall.

From present indications, only 6 scouts will remain in the field in Illinois after September 20. The second survey should be completed in Stephenson County and in the rural areas of Lake County by this date.

WESTERN REGION

Iowa - Morrill Hall, Iowa State College, Ames - D. R. Shepherd

During the past two weeks the Iowa field forces have been doing second survey work in Humboldt and Winnebago Counties and third survey work in Lyon and Sioux Counties. By the time the field forces are ready to resign this fall we hope to have the survey in Lyon, Sioux and Humboldt Counties completed. It will, no doubt, be necessary to complete the survey in Winnebago County after the regular field forces have resigned this fall.

The forces stationed in these four counties have all found numerous plantings of barberries during the past two weeks. In southwestern Lyon County in the vicinity of Inwood, Iowa, a hedge of 100 planted and 75 escaped bushes was found and approximately 100 seedlings. This was an unusual find in Lyon County in that most of the plantings found previously this season have been of one and two bushes. The forces in Sioux County also uncovered a large planting in the vicinity of Rock Valley. There were 325 sprouting bushes in this planting. The owner reported that bushes had been originally grubbed out with teams and that the roots had never been treated. Since the time they were originally destroyed by the owner these bushes have grown to a height of about five feet. Both of these plantings indicated that they had been heavily infected during the rust season.

Twenty-nine plantings have been reported from Humboldt County during the past two weeks. Most of these are escaped bushes that were not located on the first survey. The size of most of them indicates that they are twenty to thirty years old.

The survey work in Winnebago County during the past two weeks has been going very slowly on account of the heavily timbered areas and the heavy growths along the fence rows. Four men are stationed at Forest City and two are stationed at Lake Mills. The western part of the county is a much lighter type of territory and should work much faster when the men complete the eastern half.

Barberry Eradication demonstrations have been held at three Fairs during the past two weeks. We had an exhibit at the Iowa State Fair in the Botany Department booth this year. Messrs. Cassell and Bower, two barberry men, had charge of the exhibit and report that it was a desirable arrangement. They report that they made many valuable contacts while at Des Moines. They are now carrying on a demonstration at the Osceola County Fair at Sibley, Iowa.

A demonstration was set up at the Sioux County Fair at Orange City by one of the scouts who is stationed in Sioux County. A bush was set up also in the Agricultural Building at the Lyon County Fair which was held last week at Rock Rapids.

Assistant Leader, Mr. Cassell, will have a demonstration at the Humboldt County Fair September 8 to 11, the Clay County Fair at Spencer September 16 to 20, and the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress which is to be held September 29 to October 5. We have tried this year to hold our Fair demonstrations in the territory where we either have worked or plan to work some time in the near future. We feel that the contacts we have made help to introduce our work into the counties, and it also will help us if there is a possibility of any bushes sprouting in the future.

We have impressed upon the people the necessity of reporting any bushes that they find although the county has just been surveyed. The Leader met with a group of 4-H club girls at the Cedar Rapids Club Camp on August 21. About sixty girls were in attendance at this camp.

District No. 1 - State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak. - George C. Mayoue

Montana - Second survey was completed in Carbon County August 23 and the six agents who had been stationed there since June 23 were transferred to Stillwater County where, according to reports, there is likelihood of finding barberries. The other squad of six men is still located in Yellowstone County where survey probably will not be completed this season.

In Carbon County a few original and several escaped plantings were located. Most of the work since the first of August was strip scouting along the Clark River, especially opposite places where original plantings had been found this season and previously. In the course of this river survey escaped bushes were found on four different locations, one of the bushes being about 6 feet in height but bearing no seeds. All of the finds except this one bush were located in clumps of buffalo berry bushes (*Lopargyrea argentea*), showing quite conclusively that birds are likely to carry barberry seeds to this kind of bush where they also apparently feed. According to experienced agents of Montana this fact also was noted in the Kapispell area where survey was carried on last season.

Interesting window displays were placed in Fromberg and other towns of Carbon County. Merchants evidenced that they were pleased to have these displays.

The agents stationed in Yellowstone County have been working in the vicinity of Worden and have been finding bushes. One of the finds was estimated by the owner to be about thirty years old. The bushes were loaded with seeds. As yet no seedlings except adjacent to these plants have been found in that locality.

All of the agents report that the people with whom they come in contact, with few exceptions, favor barberry eradication and desire the agents to do what they can to get rid of them. The District Leader found this to be the attitude of most of the people he met while in Montana.

Two agents are at present conducting a demonstration at the Midland Empire Fair in Billings. The week beginning August 18 they were at the State Fair at Helena and last week at the Lewistown Fair. They are showing an attractive demonstration made up in a portable booth. It includes the life cycle models, a live barberry imprisoned in a death cell, and a set of display cards arranged on a panel display folder which illustrates and explains the progress of the campaign in Montana. Mr. Kendall, in charge, reports that he has found barberries in the vicinity of Lewistown through information given to him at the Fair there. The District Leader spent two days assisting the agents with this demonstration. Similar to the experiences of 1929 in North Dakota, the Death Cell is attracting a great deal of attention. The demonstration was located adjacent to other Federal demonstrations or exhibits in the most popular building on the fair grounds. The Secretary of the Montana State Fair and State officials were much pleased with our demonstration, to judge by the complimentary remarks which they have made about it.

While in Helena the District Leader met with several State officials at the Capitol, as well as with farmers and business men. He is much pleased with the attitude which these people have toward the barberry campaign in Montana.

North Dakota - Second survey is still being carried on in Burke, McLean and Mountrail Counties. Third survey is being conducted in portions of McIntosh and Dickey Counties where rust spreads of this season and last year point quite directly to bushes somewhere in that region of the State. Also, agents are working on an emergency rust survey in Eddy County, because of a rust spread which has occurred there this season.

Messrs. Fisher, Hermes and Newgard have resigned to take positions as instructors in high schools, and Messrs. McLain and Hodgson were requested to resign in order to reduce the personnel to a number which could be transported by the government-owned trucks and rented cars on hand without making additional arrangements for transportation.

The assistant Leader, Mr. Roberts, made a radio address at Minot last week. While there he also gave a talk at convocation at the State Teachers College.

Very attractive window displays have been placed in Minot and Bismarck. They were shown in the windows of the J. C. Penney Company

Stores, which had the best show windows and locations in each of these towns. The District Leader observed the one placed in Bismarck and noted that everyone who passed the store stopped and looked at the display. Arrangements are now being made for a similar display in Jamestown where recently a young Rust Busters member has located barberries. Details of this find and the display will be given in the next report.

As a result of the demonstration shown in connection with the Retail Merchants Association meeting in Valley City this last June, Mr. Sorlie, a merchant at Buxton, has submitted a report of sprouting bushes located in Grand Forks County. He stated that his interest in the barberry campaign was aroused through the demonstration which he saw at the convention.

Wyoming - The District Leader recently visited with the agents located in Crook County, Wyoming, where they have been making some good finds of barberries for that type of country. The two agents are at the present time conducting a demonstration in connection with the Buffalo Fair. It is approximately the same as the demonstration being shown in Montana except that it has the Davis machine instead of the death cell. Beginning the week of September 8 these two agents will conduct a demonstration at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. Mr. Widdifield, in charge, reports excellent cooperation from the people. In a few contacts which the District Leader made he learned that the work was meeting with much favor and that the people were pleased to have these agents looking for barberries.

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Michigan - Michigan State College, East Lansing - Francis B. Powers

In Michigan the squads under the leadership of Mr. Mason and Mr. Hunter have completed the survey in Presque Isle County. Mr. Hunter has taken his squad into Schoolcraft and Luce Counties in the upper peninsula where a severe rust epidemic has occurred each summer for the past five years. Mr. Mason and his squad are entering Leelanau County to assist the squads already located there in finishing that county. With the completion of Presque Isle and Leelanau Counties the first survey will be completed in the lower peninsula.

The men who have been sent into the upper peninsula have encountered forest fires and were forced to abandon their efforts in the part of Schoolcraft County that had been most severely hit by rust. The farms in that region had been cut out of the forest. One farmer hauling grain to his granary was forced to remove the horses, leaving the load and wagon to burn. In spite of the fires, the squad has thus far destroyed eighteen barberry bushes.

The demonstrations at the fairs are attracting unusually large crowds. The Fairs visited to date have been the Ionia Free Fair, the

Upper Peninsula State Fair at Escanaba, the Michigan State Fair at Detroit, and this week the Jackson County Fair at Jackson. At the Michigan State Fair a different group of boys from the boys' camp was conducted through the state exhibits each day and a five minute talk was given to them as well as the public who stopped to listen. The man in charge of the barberry demonstration was afforded the privilege of speaking to these groups. A space provided through the ingenuity of the men in charge brought a Hawaiian Quartet, hired by the Fair Board, to play in front of the barberry demonstration several times a day. The demonstration included the death cell and gallows mentioned in our last report and has proved to be very effective.

A number of barberry locations have been reported at the Fairs.

Personnel Items

Mr. Donald G. Fletcher, Senior Pathologist and General Field Supervisor for the Office of Barberry Eradication, has resigned effective September 15th to become Executive Secretary of the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust, with headquarters in Minneapolis. Mr. Fletcher, who was employed by the Conference for the five years preceding his joining the Office of Barberry Eradication early this year, was recalled by this cooperating group to carry on the very important work which the organization has been doing in rendering assistance to the Barberry Eradication Campaign during the past nine years.

Mr. Fletcher played an important part in the organization of the Office and the supervision of field work during the past year. He not only contributed much to the success of this season's activities, but outlined plans which have been adopted for conduct of certain phases of the work. While Mr. Fletcher's resignation is a distinct loss to the Office of Barberry Eradication, this is in a sense compensated by the fact that the work of our cooperating agency, the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust, will be in such capable hands and there will thus be an opportunity for him to continue to render valuable service in the rust control program.

Mr. W. L. Popham, Field Supervisor, Eastern Division, has been assigned headquarters in Minneapolis, Room 300, Lewis Building, where following Mr. Fletcher's resignation, he will serve as Acting General Field Supervisor for the Office.

Mr. Robert W. Bills, in charge of the Barberry Eradication Office in Illinois, recently visited the Washington Office while on his vacation.

Miss Grace A. Nyman, of the Brookings, South Dakota Office, was married while on her vacation in August, and is now Mrs. Bjerke.

Mr. Carl Kanan, Property Clerk in the Washington Office, was married to Miss Evelyn Wilson on July 16th.